

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MAPUTO 00881 111739Z

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06

CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 EPG-02 FAA-00 /049 W

-----008699 111744Z /53

P R 111510Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6048

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MBABANE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL DURBAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, MZ

SUBJECT: MOZAMBIQUE INVALIDATES ALL DETA AIRLINE TICKETS AND
ESTABLISHES STATE TRAVEL AGENCY

1. LOCAL PRESS JULY 9 AND 10 CARRIED FRONT PAGE STORIES ANNOUNCING THE GOVERNMENT OF MOZAMBIQUE'S DECISION TO INVALIDATE ALL INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT TICKETS ISSUED BY DETA, MOZAMBIQUE'S NATIONAL AIRLINE. GOVERNMENT'S DECISION WAS TAKEN AFTER IT WAS DISCOVERED THAT (A) THOUSANDS OF COUNTERFEIT DETA TICKETS HAD BEEN PRINTED AND USED AND (B) SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF DEPARTING PORTUGUESE WERE USING THEIR EXCESS ESCUDOS TO BUY AUTHENTIC TICKETS FROM MAPUTO TO EUROPEAN DESTINATIONS AND THEN TURNING IN THEIR TICKETS FOR FOREIGN EXCHANGE ONCE THEY WERE OUTSIDE MOZAMBIQUE.

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WM CONCURRENTLY WITH THE INVALIDATION OF ALL DETA TICKETS, GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THE CREATION OF A STATE TRAVEL AGENCY (ANAVIA -- AGENCIA NACIONAL DE VIAGENS) WHICH WILL HAVE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT IN MOZAMBIQUE TO ISSUE AND SELL ALL INTERNATIONAL PASSENGER AND CARGO TICKETS FOR DETA. DETA'S OFFICE IN LISBON WILL BE ALLOWED TO SELL TICKETS BUT WILL BE BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL OF

ANAVIA. FOREIGN CARRIERS WITH OFFICES IN MAPUTO (TAP, AEROFLOT, AIR TANZANIA, ZAMBIA AIRWAYS) WILL BE PERMITTED TO CONTINUE SELLING THEIR RESPECTIVE INTERNATIONAL TICKETS IN KEEPING WITH SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS TO BE WORKED OUT WITH THE GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, MOZAMBIQUE'S NEW STATE TRAVEL AGENCY WILL ACT IN A SUPERVISORY CAPACITY OVER THE OTHER TICKET ISSUING AIRLINES, AND PERSONNEL AND FOREIGN AIRLINE OFFICES APPROVED TO SELL INTERNATIONAL TICKETS BY THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE REGISTERED AND LISTED WITH THE NATIONAL DIRECTORATE OF CIVIL AVIATION.

3. NEW DETA TICKETS HAVE BEEN PRINTED AND ALL PASSENGERS HOLDING OLD DETA INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT TICKETS HAVE BEEN GIVEN SIXTY DAYS TO EXCHANGE THEIR TICKETS, SUBJECT TO VERIFICATION THAT THEIR TICKETS ARE NOT COUNTERFEIT NOR WERE ACQUIRED ILLEGALLY. TO PREVENT THE ESCAPE OF LARGE NUMBER OF FRAUDULENT TICKETS, THE GOVERNMENT CANCELED ALL OVERSEAS DETA FLIGHTS AND CLOSED THE COUNTRY'S AIRPORTS TO INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC ON JULY 9 AND 10. (AS OF MORNING OF JULY 11, AIRPORTS HAD REOPENED AND DETA FLIGHTS HAD RESUMED.)

4. COMMENT: ACCORDING TO THE TRAVEL AGENT FROM WHOM EMBASSY PURCHASES ITS TICKETS, MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT ALLEGATIONS (PARA 1) ABOUT ABUSE OF DETA TICKETS ARE SUBSTANTIALLY TRUE AND AS MANY AS 40,000 FRAUDULENT DETA TICKETS HAVE BEEN PRINTED AND USED DURING PAST SIX TO NINE MONTHS. WHILE GOVERNMENT ACTION WILL CURB FORMER ABUSES, NET EFFECT OF NEW REGULATIONS WILL BE TO PUT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SIX OR SEVEN REMAINING MOZAMBIQUE TRAVEL AGENCIES OUT OF BUSINESS AND TO BRING OTHER FOREIGN CARRIER TICKET SELLERS UNDER GREATER GOVERNMENT CONTROL AND SCRUTINY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIR TRANSPORTATION, ALLEGATIONS, FRAUDS, STATE ENTERPRISES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MAPUTO00881
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770246-0160
Format: TEL
From: MAPUTO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770771/aaaackbe.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4428f96d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1905430
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MOZAMBIQUE INVALIDATES ALL DETA AIRLINE TICKETS AND ESTABLISHES STATE TRAVEL AGENCY
TAGS: EAIR, MZ, DETA, ANAVIA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4428f96d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009